

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/14885

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01R31/327

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| A | EP 0 105 786 A (MERLIN GERIN) 18 April 1984 (1984-04-18) claim 1 ---- | 1,5 |
| A | US 2001/000355 A1 (FLETCHER DAVID ET AL) 19 April 2001 (2001-04-19) the whole document ---- | 1 |
| A | US 4 996 646 A (FARRINGTON RONALD L) 26 February 1991 (1991-02-26) claims 1-3 ---- | 1 |
| A | US 5 714 886 A (HARRIS MATTHEW B) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) claim 1 ---- | 1,5 |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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Date of the actual completion of the International search

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